

(c) REMARKS

The claims are 1-10 and 12-21 with claim 1 being the sole independent claim.

The Examiner had required restriction between:

Group I, claims 1-10, drawn to a bonding apparatus, class 156, subclass 349;

Group II, claim 11;

Group III, claims 12-21, drawn to a bonding apparatus, class 156, subclass 349; and

Group IV, claim 22.

The Examiner recognized that Groups I and III were related as combination and sub-combination. As a reason for requiring restriction, the Examiner argues that the combination of claim 12 in Group II did not require the particulars of the sub-combination of claim 1 of Group I on the ground that the cleaning and/or activating limitations of Group I are not necessary in the apparatus of Group II and the measurement features of Group II were not necessary in the apparatus of Group I.

Without agreeing or disagreeing and solely to expedite prosecution, claim 12 has been amended so that it depends from claim 1. Accordingly, combination claim 12 in Group II now includes each of the features of sub-combination claim 1 of Group I and, additionally, requires a measurement unit.

Accordingly, since claim 1 is generic to other remaining claims, no reason for restriction exists. Since claims 11 and 22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, it is submitted that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn and that all the claims should be entitled to an early and favorable examination on their merits.

As required, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse the claims of Group I, claims 1-10. If for any reason the Examiner believes any issues remain, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve them.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Saxon", written over a horizontal line.

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